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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(April 22 - May 21, 1984)

June 1984

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Rachel Warner

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(22 April - 21 May 1984)

Africa General

New OAU Committee

(Excerpt) The Organization of African Unity (OAU) is taking measures to establish a system of collective security on the continent. A special committee on the ministerial level met in Addis Ababa to discuss the question of setting up a committee of political security in OAU ranks--a new organ whose task will be to examine conflict situations in Africa. The committee, in which representatives of 12 African countries participated, was formed by a resolution of an OAU council of ministers in 1981. (25 Apr 84, p. 5)

Unemployment Figures

(Excerpt) The level of unemployment in Africa has increased by eight percent. More than 43 percent of the continent's work force is unemployed. These figures are contained in a message of the Ethiopian head of state, Mengistu Haile Mariam, during an OAU commission session. (1 May 84, p. 5)

Struggle Against Apartheid

(Text) A conference on the strength of the struggle against apartheid policy, organized by the International Labor Organization (ILO), opened in Lusaka. Representatives of numerous countries, the African National Congress (ANC), the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) are participating in the work of the forum. The delegates are working on an action program to activate the struggle against apartheid. (6 May 84, p. 1)

Conference Concludes

(Excerpt) The international conference to combat apartheid concluded in Lusaka. In the published resolutions of the forum, organized through the initiatives of the International Labor Organization (ILO), it was recommended that strong measures be taken to strengthen the economies of the frontline states of southern Africa. (10 May 84, p. 4)

Southern Africa

Refusal to Talk

(Excerpt) South Africa refused to participate in talks in Lusaka with the SWAPO delegation about an agreement on a cease-fire in Namibia and the country's gaining of independence. Informed sources report that the decision to stay away from the talks was made in Pretoria with the agreement of Washington which is uninterested in stability in southern Africa. (16 May 84, p. 5)

Bomb Blast Kills Hundreds

(Excerpt) The terrorist group the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), carrying out the work of South Africa, committed a monstrous crime. On 19 April, a bomb exploded next to the living quarters of Cuban specialists in Huambo (Huambo Province), killing about 100 people including women and children. A meeting was held in Huambo attended by thousands including MPLA-Workers' Party Central Committee Member Lara, who said that US imperialists are using the South African racists and puppet UNITA terrorists to destabilize Angola. (23 Apr 84, p. 5)

Deaths Reported

(Text) Angolan national radio announced accurate data on the number of deaths in the explosion in Huambo set off by UNITA terrorists. As a result of this action, 24 people were killed and 30 wounded. Six of them are in critical condition. (24 Apr 84, p. 5)

Government Victory

(Text) In Luanda, a report on the defeat of UNITA terrorists fighting in the city of Sumbe (South Cuanza Province) was broadcast. About 1,500 bandits under artillery cover burst into the outskirts of the city. Their objectives were schools, agricultural structures, produce warehouses, and primary goods. The attack, notes the newspaper Jornal de Angola, was repulsed by units of the Angolan Army with the help of fighter planes. More than 100 people were killed in the fighting, and arms and ammunition were seized. (26 Apr 84, p. 4)

Angolan Popular Reaction

(Text) The Angolan people received the news of UNITA's act of vandalism in Huambo with indignation, reports the Angolan News Agency, ANGOP. Imperialism, the agency points out, chose Angola for one of its own missions. On its orders, the Pretoria regime is conducting an unnecessary war against Angola through the use of its regular troops and armed bandits. The goal of the racists and their allies is to force the republic to capitulate to neocolonialism and reactionaries. However, no terror can push the Angolan people from their selected path. (27 Apr 84, p. 5)

Bombing Condemned

(Excerpt) The barbarous imperialist action in Huambo, where the American CIA organized an attack on the peaceful citizenry, was aimed at the overthrow of the MPLA government, writes the newspaper Jornal de Angola. (28 Apr 84, p. 5)

New Operations

(Excerpt) During the last week, units of the National Armed Forces of Angola (FAPLA) have launched several large military mopping up operations in Angola to wrest control from UNITA bands, acting under orders from their imperialist hosts and their major ally in southern Africa, South Africa. The operations were in the provinces of Moxico, Cuanda-Cubango, Bie, and Huambo. (14 May 84, p. 5)

Spy Trial

(Excerpt) A people's revolutionary tribunal is meeting in Luanda. In the dock are 123 participants in a criminal organization which "combined" espionage with widespread economic sabotage aimed at the "creation of a state of chaos and detriment to the national authorities" of Angola. Step by step, the picture of actions against the young state is emerging. All of these actions were undertaken with the support of imperialist circles, including those in the United States, Portugal, West Germany, as well as in South Africa. (21 May 84, p. 6)

Chad

French Expansion

(Excerpt) The French Minister of Defense decided to appoint Brigadier General Yves Bechu as the commander of French forces in Chad, reports Le Monde, replacing General Jean Poli. According to observers, this decision is evidence of the intentions of Paris to expand the sphere of activities of the expeditionary corps in Chad to the north of the 16th parallel. Le Monde points out that General Bechu led actions of the French forces in Algeria until 1981 and has experience under African conditions. According to press reports, the US administration is strenuously calling on Paris to activate military operations against Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) forces. (2 May 84, p. 5)

French Buildup

(Text) France is building up its military presence in Chad. As stated by the Ministry of National Defense, 300 French troops left from Toulon for N'Djamena. At present, the French interventionist corps in this central African country already numbers more than 3,000 military personnel. (6 May 84, p. 5)

GUNT Interview

(Excerpt) Imperialist circles, especially those of the United States and France, are nurturing plans of widespread aggression against the Chadian people, said Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) Defense Minister Acheikh Umar during an interview with TASS. (10 May 84, p. 5)

Comoros

President Speaks of Soviet Initiatives

(Excerpt) The government and people of the Comoros appraise highly the widespread peaceful initiatives promoted by the CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Chernenko, said Comoran President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane. These constructive efforts, he said during a TASS interview, reflect the principle character of the Soviet Union's foreign policies, the goal of which is peace. (24 Apr 84, p. 4)

Central Committee Plenum

(Excerpt) A plenum of the Congolese Workers' Party (PCT) Central Committee, dedicated to preparations for the third PCT Congress, concluded its work in Brazzaville. The participants discussed and wrote documents for the party forum, heard accounts of the Politburo and Central Control and Revision Commission of the Central Committee, offered intermediate steps toward the implementation of the first 5-year plan of economic development from 1982 to 1986, and discussed questions of social and economic construction in the Congo. (2 May 84, p. 4)

Seminar Opens

(Excerpt) A national seminar on propaganda in the Congolese Workers' Party (PCT) opened in Brazzaville. At the center of attention are questions of ideological education among the working masses. Its participants will hear speeches on the themes of "Principles of Propaganda and Agitation" and "The Campaign to Prepare for the Third Congress of the PCT." (14 May 84, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Aid From Friends

(Text) The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has received a gift from the executive committee of the Soviet Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent intended for the population in regions suffering from drought. (8 May 84, p. 5, and translated by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #096, 16 May 84, p. J5)

First General Census

(Excerpt) In Ethiopia, a general census of the population has been undertaken. This kind of statistical investigation is being carried out in the country for the first time in Ethiopian history. (12 May 84, p. 4)

Ethiopian Students in USSR

(Excerpt) Five hundred and forty Ethiopian students, graduate students, and probationers are beginning studies in Soviet universities in the next school year. (15 May 84, p. 5)

Protocol Signed

(Excerpt) A Soviet-Ethiopian intergovernment protocol on Soviet aid to Ethiopia for the modernization and expansion of the polytechnical institute in Bahir Dar was signed in Addis Ababa. This institute, built as a gift to the Ethiopian people, has already reached a third of the 10-year anniversary of its existence. (18 May 84, p. 1)

History of Workers' Newspaper

(Excerpt) Ethiopia's labor newspaper Serto Ader is published every Thursday. In almost a century of history, the Ethiopian press has never released such a

newspaper. Periodic publications which existed before the revolution were intended for the aristocrats, the thin layer of literate people, or, if they had access to European newspapers, foreigners. But 93 percent of the population could not even read. The 1974 revolution changed the face of newspapers. The demand for the printed word grew and continues to grow because of the country's efforts to eradicate illiteracy. Four years ago, Serto Ader, an organ of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE), first appeared. (20 May 84, p. 4)

Party Preparations

(Excerpt) A national meeting of leaders of COPWE took place in Addis Ababa. During the meeting, documents of the future vanguard party based on Marxism-Leninism were discussed and examined. The participants also discussed organizational questions connected with the increase of party gatherings at local levels and the first party Congress which must be held on 12 September, the 10th anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution. (21 May 84, p. 5)

Message of Condemnation

(Excerpt) The newspaper, the Ethiopian Herald, condemns eight West European states which invited the South African Prime Minister to visit. Calling P. Botha a sworn enemy of not only Africans but of everyone with dark skin of all the democratic and progressive world forces, the newspaper says that the head of Ethiopia, Mengistu Haile Mariam, directed the message to the countries' leaders. (21 May 84, p. 4)

Ethiopia/Republic of South Africa

Message to Britain

(Text) The Ethiopian leader and Organization of African Unity (OAU) Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam sent a message to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in which he appealed to the British Government to take measures against excursions of British commandos to South Africa. The British Prime Minister, it says in the message, knows well that the UN, OAU, and members of the nonaligned movement condemned sports contact with South Africa. (18 May 84, p. 5)

Ghana

Cultural Agreement Signed

(Excerpt) In Accra, a program of cultural and scientific cooperation between the Soviet Union and Ghana from 1984 to 1985 was signed. Attending the signing ceremony was Ghanaian Secretary for Culture and Tourism Asudu Yirenkyi who thanked the Soviet Union for its help in Ghana. (23 Apr 84, p. 6)

Agricultural Development

(Text) In Accra, a document has been published under the title of "Rural Manifesto." It was developed by the Ministry of Rural Economic Development and Cooperatives of Ghana. In the manifesto, it is stated that in the field of rural economics, it is necessary to strengthen agricultural production and to link it with development in urban centers. (3 May 84, p. 4)

Rawlings on Social Development

(Excerpt) The establishment of an equal society, free from the exploitation by one man of another, is the most important goal of Ghana's revolution, said Chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council Jerry Rawlings in Accra. Speaking in front of journalists, Rawlings emphasized that the country is trying to resolve social and economic problems. (17 May 84, p. 4)

Kenya

Crocodile Farm

(Text) A crocodile farm to be built in Kenya will be the largest in the world, and by 1986 should have 20,000 of these reptiles. Upwards of 500 "inhabitants" of the farm under construction have already received registrations; 700 crocodile eggs have been counted. The farm's territory extends around seven hectares close to the city of Mombasa. The annual export of crocodile skins, which will be grown on the farm, will come to \$70,000. (7 May 84, p. 6)

Madagascar

Cyclone Aid

(Text) A gift from the USSR Union of Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Executive Committee has been handed over in the Malagasy capital to the democratic republic's population, which has suffered as a result of tropical cyclones. On accepting the friendly gift--a consignment of medicines, children's food, and blankets--Malagasy Red Cross Secretary General Razanidzatu expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its solidarity with the Malagasy people. The Soviet Union, he stressed, has always come to Madagascar's assistance in times of need. (15 May 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #100, 22 May 84, p. J2)

Mozambique

Pravda Delegation Visits Mozambique

(Summary) By invitation of the FRELIMO Central Committee and the Mozambican Government, a delegation from Pravda visited Mozambique. A detailed description of the visit appears, including observations of various aspects of life in Mozambique and discussion of the country's history. Also discussed are the party and government functions. (23 Apr 84, p. 6)

Report By Special Correspondents

(Excerpt) We flew from Maputo to Beira, Mozambique's second largest city. The overland route is frequently risky--the highways in the country's provinces are special targets for attacks by armed gangs from the so-called "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR). Over the past few months, the armed forces and the people's militia have dealt several harsh blows to MNR formations. Many bases

have been destroyed and thousands of bandits have been killed or captured. Nevertheless, the situation remains serious, and there was not a single conversation in which the Mozambican comrades did not speak about armed banditry. It is clear that an undeclared war is being waged against the young republic, and that it is being waged by the racist South African regime with help from the MNR. The Socialist goals of FRELIMO--the independent foreign policy pursued by the People's Republic of Mozambique, its support for the South-West African People's Organization in Namibia and for the African National Congress which heads the South African people's struggle for freedom--all this has and continues to infuriate the imperialists and colonialists. Repeatedly resorting to acts of direct aggression, even going as far as the bombing of Maputo, the South African racists have been basically counting on Mozambique's destabilization from within.

We went to a militia course recently. More than 3,000 people are attending the 3-month course. Tactical instruction is being given and parade ground marching was being practiced on lawns which had previously been used by the colonialists as a golf course. Under the burning sun, the students, including quite a few women, were mastering the elements of military science literally with sweat on their brows.

The racist South African regime, enjoying full support from the United States, has been and remains the main organizer of the undeclared war in southern Africa, a tool for the enslavement of peoples. Using the carrot and stick method and playing on the African states' desire to live in peace under conditions of stability, the United States and its allies are striving to impose their will on the peoples in southern Africa. We were told that the imperialists will fail in this and that Mozambique will remain in its positions of solidarity with the fighters against apartheid and the victims of South African aggression. The Mozambican comrades also made it repeatedly understood that Pretoria remains an enemy of socialism and may try to take advantage of the concluded agreement for economic and ideological infiltration in Mozambique; therefore, care, alertness, and high vigilance are needed. A commentary by the Mozambican news agency AIM, for example, said a few days ago: "Imperialism has failed to put an end to socialism in Mozambique by military means. Now it is trying to do so economically." The commentary notes in this connection that the republic "will not find it easy to defend itself from the invasion by capital. . . . But we are ready to safeguard our national interests under each contract that has been signed." Mozambique President Samora Machel, touching on the agreement, said the following in one of his speeches: "There can be no question of any coexistence in the ideological sphere. We are different from one another. Our systems are antagonistic. We are for socialism, we are against capitalism."

Our meeting with workers, peasants, party workers, and professional colleagues invariably reflected friendly attitudes toward our country and lively interest in it. Distance was no obstacle. We felt how highly the young republic values the invariable support recently expressed by the Soviet leadership for Mozambique and the other "frontline" states, as well as for the fighters for southern Africa's liberation from racism and colonialism. "Relations between the CPSU and FRELIMO already have a long history," Comrade Marcelino dos Santos said in the above-mentioned conversation. "Following the gaining of independence, they also started developing at the state level. We consider our cooperation to be a contribution to the struggle for peace. The FRELIMO party

and all Mozambican people highly value the cooperation with the Soviet Union, both during the war of liberation and now. We are expanding our links in economic, defense, and all other spheres. Our cooperation is developing in industry, agriculture, the extraction of minerals, the education sphere, and so on. There are many Soviet specialists in Mozambique--doctors, teachers, and geologists. This cooperation is yielding rich fruit and we are confident and hopeful that it will be preserved." (30 Apr 84, p. 6 and translated in part by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #086, 2 May 84, pp. J1-3)

Namibia Republic of South Africa

Breakdown of Negotiations

(Excerpt) Colonizers never voluntarily give up their "rights" to the oppressive enslavement of their peoples. South Africa has not made up its mind to do this, illegally occupying Namibia with the support of the United States, as evidenced by the breakdown of talks between the Pretoria delegation and SWAPO representatives in Lusaka. During the meeting with SWAPO, the apartheid regime showed no good will. This breakdown was programmed in advance by Pretoria with US help. With "constructive cooperation" from the US administration, enlisted by South Africa through "friends and allies" in the United States, the South African racists are inventing various evasions with the goal of failing to reach a solution to the Namibian problem. (20 May 84, p. 5)

Namibia/South-West African People's Organization

SWAPO Position

(Text) South Africa, which is occupying Namibia, is pursuing a policy of genocide with respect to the African population and is continuing the predatory plunder of the country's natural resources, S. Nujoma, President of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), said in an interview with a TASS correspondent. Under these conditions, he noted, the Namibian patriots are fully determined to expand their armed struggle against colonialism and racism and for freedom and independence. SWAPO is also prepared to seek freedom by peaceful means at the conference table. However, so far we have not encountered a serious attitude toward this on the part of South Africa. We have come to the Zambian capital not to have a meeting with representatives of Pretoria but for the sake of a cease-fire in Namibia and the granting of independence to it. Nujoma confirmed SWAPO's readiness to meet with a South African delegation, but not with the leaders of the so-called "internal parties"--the racist regime's puppets who enjoy no support among the Namibian people. He particularly noted that at the projected meeting, SWAPO would demand the immediate fulfillment of UN Security Council Resolution No 435. S. Nujoma expressed profound thanks to the Soviet Union for its aid to the Namibian people's liberation struggle. The USSR, the President said, is making a great contribution to the consolidation of the independence of the young states of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and to the improvement of their economic position. (12 May 84, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #096, 16 May 84, p. J1)

Republic of South Africa

Schools Closed

(Text) By order of South African racist authorities, several schools serving about 6,000 Africans were closed. Such a step is hoped by the racists to cope with protests against the low level of education in the schools for dark-skinned people, the application of physical punishment, and growing restrictions in the right to an education. Statistics show that in South Africa, schools for black-skinned children receive eight times less expenditures than do those for white children. The protest movement in these schools has been going on for several months. (7 May 84, p. 6)

Education for Blacks

(Excerpt) Police broke into demonstrators, landing blows right and left with clubs and exploding tear gas bombs. Such was the scene not long ago in South Africa during demonstrations by black schoolchildren in Atteridgeville, a suburb of Pretoria, in the cities of Port Elizabeth and Cradock. But it was even worse in Soweto in 1976, in 1980, and in February of this year when police used firearms against children.

More than 30 years have passed since South Africa created the system of education for Africans. Fifty percent of the Africans in the country are illiterate. (15 May 84, p. 5)

Republic of South Africa/African National Congress

Comment on Military Tactics

(Excerpt) The apartheid regime not only intends to continue South Africa's repressive policies, but also to conduct an aggressive policy line in its relations with its neighboring countries, said ANC General Secretary Nzo during a press conference in Addis Ababa. The spurious announcement of this regime about its aspirations of living in peace with its neighbors, he continued, was disclosed anew when the military budget was presented, providing for a new large increase of funds for the army and police. (23 April 84, p. 4)

Republic of South Africa/Seychelles

Mercenaries Freed

They had just been released from prison. This decision of South Africa's legal courts is a logical continuation of their actions in regard to the band of mercenaries. After the attempt to overthrow the Seychellois Government was made, the majority of these mercenaries fled to South Africa on an Air India plane. In July 1982, the South Africans sentenced the head of these "dogs of war", Mike Hoare known as "Mad Mike", and his "right hand man", P. Daffy, to 10 years in prison, and the others to a 5-year term of punishment. But in 4 months, by December 1982, almost all were pardoned. The grounds for this were stated by South African authorities as "excellent behavior." And now there is no need for formal grounds. (7 May 84, p. 5)

Seychelles

Cinnamon Production

(Text) Cinnamon is the second most import article of export from the Seychelles after products from the cocoa plantations. Last year, the Seychelles produced 877 tons of cinnamon. There is an interesting history of cinnamon trees in the Seychelles. The French brought them there in 1772. Later, for fear the plantations would fall into British hands, the latter being present along with the French in this region of the Indian Ocean, the trees were destroyed. However, birds that lived on the fruit of the cinnamon trees had spread seeds over the islands. The root of the cinnamon trees is gathered both in state and local farms. The authorities help the farms to transport the aromatic harvest. This year in the Seychelles, according to press reports, the production of cinnamon oil, which is derived from the leaves, was revived. This oil is used for the production of a fungicide as well as of tonic and aromatic mediums. (29 Apr 84, p. 5)

Sudan

State of Emergency

(Text) Sudanese President Numeiri announced the introduction of a state of emergency throughout the country. In Khartoum, a curfew was imposed following meetings and demonstrations. The present measures, said the President, were taken in response to the actions of opposing forces as well as to the difficult economic conditions in the country. (1 May 84, p. 5)

Tanzania

Strengthened Ties

(Text) A plan for party ties between the CPSU and the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM) for 1984 and 1985 has been signed here today. This document provides for the broad exchange of party delegations and other measures aimed at the further consolidation of relations of friendship and cooperation between the CPSU and the CCM. Deputy Chief of the CCM Secretariat International Section F. M. Muro stated in an interview with the TASS correspondent that the signing of the protocol is the third in the history of relations between the two parties. He assessed highly the fulfillment of the two previous plans and expressed the certainty that the new document will serve to consolidate the solidarity between the CPSU and the CCM and the two countries' peoples for the benefit of world peace and progress. (12 May 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #096, 16 May 84, p. J5)

Togo

Protocol Signed

(Text) A protocol on cultural and scientific links between the Soviet Union and Togo was signed in Lome. (24 Apr 84, p. 4)